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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (A/60/705). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/296, section VI, paragraph 5, in which the Assembly stressed the need to strengthen cooperation and coordination in the area of disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration between multiple actors, both within and outside the United Nations system, and the importance of a clear description of their respective roles. The Assembly also provided clarification on the use of assessed contributions for disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration during peacekeeping operations.

3. The report of the Secretary-General discusses a review of the United Nations engagement in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration since 2000, the lessons learned and the new United Nations approach developed by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, in which 15 departments, agencies, funds and programmes are represented. The Inter-Agency Working Group was constituted by the Executive Committee on Peace and Security to continue the work on improving the Organization's performance in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

4. Since 2000, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration has been included as part of the mandate of six peacekeeping missions. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), agencies, funds, departments and programmes play a key role in supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

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programmes in the context of peacekeeping operations. The concepts and policies developed by the Inter-Agency Working Group constitute what the Secretary-General characterizes as the United Nations integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards. The Secretary-General indicates that when those standards are launched, in 2006, they will provide guidance for integrated operational planning and will serve as the basis for the common training of a United Nations cadre of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration specialists. The Advisory Committee points out that the standards have not yet been submitted to the General Assembly (see Assembly resolution 59/296, part VI, para. 8) and notes that part VI of Assembly resolution 59/296 refers to "Disarmament, demobilization (including reinsertion) and reintegration".

5. In paragraphs 26 and 27 of his report, the Secretary-General clarifies the distinction between reinsertion and reintegration, indicating that reinsertion is the assistance provided to ex-combatants during demobilization, which can last up to one year, prior to the longer-term process of reintegration, which extends beyond the life of a peacekeeping mission. Furthermore, in paragraph 3 of his note A/C.5/59/31, the Secretary-General indicates that "while the Secretariat may continue to include operational costs related to disarmament and demobilization (including reinsertion) in the budgets of relevant peacekeeping missions with a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration component, in accordance with mandates of the Security Council, financial support for reintegration will continue to be resourced through voluntary contributions and managed by the appropriate agencies, funds and programmes."

6. The Advisory Committee notes that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities were previously funded exclusively through voluntary funding. In paragraph 56 of his report, the Secretary-General explains that the time taken to raise and disburse voluntary funding results in a gap between the disarmament and demobilization phases, which are relatively easy to fund, plan and implement, and reintegration, which is dependent on voluntary funding. The presence of idle ex-combatants waiting for reintegration opportunities creates risks that can threaten the stability of the peace process.

7. The requirement for increased cooperation between the departments, agencies, funds and programmes working on the ground, with integrated planning and programmes and the constitution of integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration units, is one of the key lessons learned put forward by the Inter-Agency Working Group. The need to formalize the establishment of integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration units through letters of agreement that lay out the administrative and financial procedures to be followed and the responsibilities of the participating parties is also emphasized.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards will be launched in 2006 and implemented at the country level (see para. 4 above). The envisaged standards are being piloted in the Sudan, under the responsibility of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), and in Haiti, with the participation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, through the creation of integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration units. The Committee was informed that written agreements have been drawn up to formalize these arrangements. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided additional information on the respective roles of UNDP

and UNMIS with respect to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme:

(a) UNMIS has the overall responsibility for the management and delivery of the United Nations mandate on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. This includes support for policy and strategy development; coordination and oversight of United Nations assistance to national authorities; development and delivery of the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and a collaborative multi-year programme; management of donor/external relations; and providing advice to the Special Representative and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General on matters related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;

(b) UNDP focuses primarily on providing support to national authorities in planning the implementation of key components of the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, including child disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund; reintegration of women associated with armed forces; demobilization and reintegration of disabled ex-combatants; community security and arms reduction programmes; capacity development; administration of and reporting on voluntary contributions; and supporting the development of the multi-year disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

9. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General indicates his intention to provide additional support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the field and to create an integrated, inter-agency United Nations disarmament, demobilization and reintegration capacity, building on the existing secretariat (A/60/705, para. 62). **The Committee trusts that in formulating his proposals for the creation of secretariat structures, the Secretary-General will take note of the existing capacities.** In this connection, the Committee notes that the main functions of the Peacebuilding Commission, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) and General Assembly resolution 60/180, are to:

(a) Propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;

(b) Help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and sustained financial investment over the medium to long term;

(c) Extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery;

(d) Develop best practices on issues that require extensive collaboration among political, military, humanitarian and development actors.

10. **The Advisory Committee points out that it will be necessary to define the relationship of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration to the Peacebuilding Commission.**